

## Patent Claims

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1. Optical compensator for liquid crystal displays comprising
- at least one O plate retarder,
  - at least one planar A plate retarder,
  - at least one negative C plate retarder.
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2. Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises one O plate, one planar A plate and two negative C plates.
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3. Optical compensator according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises one O plate, one planar A plate and one negative C plate, with the C plate situated between the O plate and the planar A plate.
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4. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the average tilt angle  $\theta_{ave}$  in said O plate retarder is from 2 to 88°.
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5. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the tilt angle in said O plate retarder varies monotonuously in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the film from a minimum value  $\theta_{min}$  at one surface of the film to a maximum value  $\theta_{max}$  at the opposite surface of the film.
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6. Optical compensator according to claim 5, characterized in that  $\theta_{min}$  is from 0 to 80°.
7. Optical compensator according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that  $\theta_{max}$  is from 10 to 90°.
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8. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the thickness of said O plate and/or planar A plate is from 0.1 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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9. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the optical retardation of said O plate is from 6 to 300 nm.
  10. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the optical retardation of said planar A plate is from 12 to 575 nm.
  11. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the O plate comprises a linear or crosslinked polymerized liquid crystalline material with a tilted or splayed structure.
  12. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the planar A plate comprise a linear or crosslinked polymerized liquid crystalline material with a planar structure.
  13. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that at least one of the C plates is a negatively birefringent polymer film.
  14. Optical compensator according claim 13, characterized in that said polymer film is a negatively birefringent TAC or DAC film.
  15. Optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the C plate comprises a linear or crosslinked polymerized chiral liquid crystalline material with a helically twisted structure.
  16. Optical compensator according to claim 15, characterized in that the helical pitch of the chiral liquid crystalline material in said C plate is less than 250 nm.
  17. A liquid crystal display device comprising the following elements

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- a liquid crystal cell formed by two transparent substrates having surfaces which oppose each other, an electrode layer provided on the inside of at least one of said two transparent substrates and optionally superposed with an alignment layer, and a liquid crystal medium which is present between the two transparent substrates,
  - a polarizer arranged outside said transparent substrates, or a pair of polarizers sandwiching said substrates, and
  - 10 - at least one optical compensator according to at least one of claims 1 to 16 being situated between the liquid crystal cell and at least one of said polarizers,

15 it being possible for the above elements to be separated, stacked, mounted on top of each other, coated on top of each other or connected by means of adhesive layers.

18. A liquid crystal display device according to claim 17, characterized in that it is a TN, HTN or STN display.
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